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Letter dated 1 July 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 29 June 2005, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex). I should grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi. A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 29 June 2005 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1386 (2001) and 1510 (2003), I attach herewith a report on operations of the International Security Assistance Force covering the period 7 March to 3 June 2005 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap **de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Quarterly report to the Security Council on operations of the International Security Assistance Force

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 1510 (2003), the Security Council requested the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to provide reports on the implementation of its mandate. This is the seventh such report by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), covering the period from 7 March to 3 June 2005.

2. As at 7 June 2005, ISAF total strength was 8,404 personnel from 26 NATO nations plus 278 from 10 non-NATO nations. ISAF expansion to the western part of the country was implemented on 31 May. Two provisional reconstruction teams (PRTs) came under NATO command, and two newly established PRTs will follow in the summer. Planning for a further expansion of ISAF to the south, stage 3, is continuing.

II. Security situation

Security in the International Security Assistance Force area of operations

3. During the reporting period, the level of violence in Afghanistan was relatively low up until mid-May, when a series of events took place. Allegedly fuelled by the publication of an article in *Newsweek*, a number of violent demonstrations took place in 16 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. As a result, 16 people were reported killed. There was also the kidnapping on 16 May of an Italian CARE International employee (who has since been released), as well as eruptions of tension in the Shirin Tagab area. The continuing threat to stability posed by narcotics trafficking, organized crime and factional fighting remains a cause for concern. In the foreseeable future, the National Assembly elections could stimulate unrest among opposing militant forces and provoke tribal clashes.

4. Throughout the reporting period, threat warnings and sporadic bombings and rocket attacks occurred in the capital. On the night of 29 and 30 May, a rocket hit the ISAF compound, causing slight injuries to one soldier and minor material damages. Numerous weapons caches were also discovered during the second quarter of 2005.

International Security Assistance Force operations

5. ISAF expansion to the western part of the country was implemented on 31 May, when it took responsibility for the United States-led PRT in Farah province and the Italian-led PRT in Herat province. Two newly established PRTs in Badghis and Ghor provinces will follow in the summer. NATO is preparing to temporarily deploy additional forces in support of the National Assembly elections, which are due to be held on 18 September. The primary responsibility for security during the election process will remain with the Afghan security forces.

6. An integrated project team has been assembled by NATO to provide a strategic assessment of ISAF air operations up to 2015. This team will take account of

existing NATO plans and studies, as well as input from the Afghan Government and the Coalition forces, in order to identify the right balance to be struck between the airfields at Kabul International Airport, Bagram, Kandahar and other sites that could be used by ISAF. The creation of an Afghan civil aviation authority and studies to examine possibilities for the privatization of the Afghan commercial airport facilities are key to the development of this sector.

7. ISAF played a pivotal role in the resolution of the conflict in the city of Shirin Tagab, in Faryab province, where unrest erupted. The PRT brokered a ceasefire at the local level, while ISAF headquarters interacted with the federal authorities in Kabul.

Support for security-sector reform

8. The ongoing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process was completed in Chaghcharan and the western region with the disarmament of the 41st division and the 843rd regiment. As at 15 May a total of 53,000 Afghan militia forces soldiers had entered the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The Ministry of Defence removed 85,500 personnel from the payroll out of a total of 100,000 on its lists. The current focus of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is the 1st division in Panshyr and Kabul, as it is the only remaining problematic unit. Cantonment is ongoing in Sheberghan for the 48 leftover heavy weapons.

9. In January the Afghan New Beginnings Programme initiated the disbandment of illegal armed groups. The initial aim was to gather information on armed groups operating in Afghanistan. As a result of work carried out to date, there are now approximately 1,800 such illegal armed groups made up of some 129,000 individuals in the Afghan New Beginnings Programme database.

10. Taking into account the complexity, both material and cultural, of the reform of justice, for which Italy is the lead nation, progress is being made. Some 800 judges and prosecutors have been trained. Training, facility-building and restoration are proceeding, as well as the reform of the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Office of the General Prosecutor. Italy, as lead nation in this pillar of the security-sector reform, is coordinating programmes and activities implemented also by other nations. Canada is funding a project entitled "Strengthening the rule of law in Afghanistan" to cover judicial training in civil and commercial law, elaboration of the civil code (together with Italy), legal aid education and improving the administration of first instance courts. ISAF assists the Government of Afghanistan by gathering information about the current physical condition of judicial facilities and perceptions of people with regard to law and order and in encouraging resort to courts of law for dispute resolution.

III. Support for the Afghan Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

11. The Government of Afghanistan issued a counter-narcotics implementation plan on 16 February 2005. The plan adopts an eight-pillar approach to countering narcotics activity. Specifically, it focuses on building institutions, information campaigns, alternative livelihoods, law enforcement, criminal justice, eradication, demand reduction, treatment of addicts and regional cooperation. ISAF welcomes the plan, which was coordinated with ISAF, Coalition and embassy counter-

narcotics specialists. ISAF will continue to interact with Coalition and embassy staffs on counter-narcotics issues. PRTs provide discreet support for local initiatives and logistics, as well as medical support for national eradication and interdiction operations.

12. The Afghan Ministry of Defence and General Staff are currently manned at 56 per cent following training of staff. In the army, 29 out of 65 battalions are in existence, and 44 per cent of a planned force of 46,000 soldiers are equipped and trained.

13. The training of the Afghan National Police has shown good progress to date. The target number of 62,500 police officers is planned to be reached by the end of 2005. ISAF PRTs are providing assistance to the Afghan National Police by including national police advisers on the PRT staff.

Kabul International Airport

14. Kabul International Airport continues to develop its role as a civilian airport. The outsourcing of several airport services is expected to increase in order to allow for the long-term objective of handing overall management over to the Afghan authorities. NATO is currently training Afghan firefighters who are expected to graduate by mid-2005. Air traffic controllers are being trained in India. A comprehensive plan is still required to allow the Afghan authorities to take over Kabul International Airport airfield operations and allow ISAF to scale down its responsibility.

15. A common approach by the international community remains a requirement for the rehabilitation of Kabul International Airport. A clearing house mechanism, coordinated by NATO, is currently handling these efforts. Recent debates have highlighted main priorities, such as the airport's continuing lack of appropriate radar systems allowing for landings in accordance with international air traffic regulations.

IV. Conclusion

16. ISAF continues to fulfil its United Nations mandate to support the Government of Afghanistan in the creation of a safe and secure environment within its area of operations and is expanding its role in doing so.

17. In addition to framework security and directed operations, ISAF continues to carry out a role of support for security-sector reform within its means, capabilities and constraints. With the lessons learned from the presidential election process, ISAF stands ready to provide support for the Afghan National Assembly elections next September. This will allow the core Bonn Agreement objectives to be fulfilled.

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Letter dated 28 June 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Recent events in the Middle East have raised hopes of a possible resumption of the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. We have witnessed the successful completion of Palestinian presidential elections on 9 January 2005, which was followed by the convening of the Summit at Sharm El Sheikh on 8 February 2005, where Israeli and Palestinian leaders announced a series of commitments to end violence, and to rebuild trust and mutual confidence. Although formal negotiations have not resumed, the two parties agreed to hold direct discussions to coordinate the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank, scheduled to take place in August 2005.

The international community has continued its efforts to support this positive momentum. The involvement and commitment of the Security Council has been evident in the presidential statements issued after the Palestinian presidential elections (S/PRST/2005/2), the Sharm El Sheikh Summit (S/PRST/2005/6), and on the conclusion of the meeting on supporting the Palestinian Authority held in London on 1 March 2005 (S/PRST/2005/12), in which the Security Council looked forward to the active engagement of the Quartet, and other interested parties, in the forthcoming period.

The Quartet, comprising the United Nations, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, has been working actively to support the parties to move towards a resumption of the peace process. The Quartet has consistently stressed the importance of a full and complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, consistent with the road map, as an important step to realizing the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. To best ensure that the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza takes place in a way most conducive to a renewed peace process, the Quartet appointed James Wolfensohn as its Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement. His mandate is to focus on the non-security aspects of withdrawal, particularly disposition of assets; passages, access and trade; and revival of the Palestinian economy in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip during and after the withdrawal. His mandate began on 1 June and will end on 31 December 2005.

The Quartet has stressed that a successful Gaza disengagement process would be an essential component to revitalizing the road map. In resolution 1515 (2003), the Security Council formally endorsed the Quartet's performance-based road map to a permanent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The road map is

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recognized by the international community as providing the framework to resolve the conflict and end the occupation that began in 1967, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002), the Madrid Conference, the initiative of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, and the principle of land for peace.

The members of the Quartet have agreed that Mr. Wolfensohn and his team should be provided with the support necessary to establish an office in Jerusalem and fulfil his mission. In the context of Security Council resolution 1515 (2003), in which the Council endorsed the Quartet's road map and encouraged the diplomatic efforts of the Quartet and others, I should be grateful if you could confirm support for the proposed arrangements. In view of the urgent and temporary nature of Mr. Wolfensohn's mission, it would then be my intention to proceed swiftly with the provision of logistical, technical and financial assistance in support of his office.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Letter dated 5 July 2005 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 28 June 2005 (S/2005/432) concerning the activities of the Quartet, including the mandate of its Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They confirm support for the arrangements proposed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Adamantios Th. **Vassilakis**
President of the Security Council

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